

Although not necessarily portending death, all animals when feeling 'off colour' naturally seek seclusion. How often have we seen this instinct put into practice where our own domestic pets are concerned?

CLOUDLAND ESTATE,
CUMBUM P. O.,
MADURA DIST.
7th January, 1947.

H. GIBBON.
F/Lt.

6.—THE SIZE OF INDIAN ELEPHANTS.

I send you herewith details of some large elephants that have been shot in India within recent years. As long ago as 1886 (vide *The Statesman* of February 23rd 1886) the question of the 11' Asiatic elephant was exercising the minds of sportsmen and others, and the late Mr. G. P. Sanderson had not measured any larger than 10' 6½" high at that time. In recent years I have measured two large tuskers, one belonging to the Raja of Gauripore, Assam, which was 10' 4½" at the shoulder and the other belonging to the Maharajah of Gwalior, which is 10' 5" at the shoulder. I doubt if there is a larger elephant than this in captivity to-day, unless it be found among those owned by the Maharajah of Nepal.

But while the existence of a captive 11' elephant is still to be proved, I have no doubt that such elephants exist in the wild State. Very recently an animal was found dying in the forests of Kachugaon, Goalpara District, Assam, and was measured by a Forest Officer after death and found to be 11' high. His tusks were as follows:—

1. 8' 0" long, 1' 4½" thickest mid-girth. Weight 1 md. (82 lb.)
2. 8' 0" long, 1' 4¾" thickest mid-girth. Weight 1 md. 14 chattaks (84 lb.)

This elephant, I think, constitutes an all-round record for the Asiatic elephant, and I shall be interested to know of any bigger.

The present Maharajah of Mysore claims to have shot an 11' elephant in his State. This animal, a photograph of which appeared in *The Illustrated Weekly* in 1940, had tusks which weighed 162 lb. all told though they were a little over 6' in length.

The present Rajkumar of Gauripur, Assam, shot a makhna (tuskless male) in the Garo Hills of Assam in 1945, the fore-foot of which measured 5' 6" in circumference. It was not possible to measure the shoulder-height of this animal as it lay in an awkward position.

Coming to elephants below 11' in height, the late Mr. P. R. Phukon of Gauhati, Assam, shot a tusker in the Khasi Hills of Assam in 1938 which measured 10' 10", Mr. Gyles Mackrell shot

a tusker in the Haltugaon Forests of Goalpara District which was $10' 9\frac{1}{2}"$ in height, while the undersigned shot one in Kachugaon in 1940 of which the measurements are given below:—

Height— $10' 8\frac{1}{2}"$.

Tusks: 1. $7' 3"$ length. $1' 6\frac{1}{2}"$ thickest girth, 77 lb. weight.

2. $7' 1"$ length. $1' 6\frac{3}{4}"$ thickest girth, 77 lb. weight.

In estimating the above weights, a maund is taken to be 82 lb. in weight.

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,

SHILLONG, ASSAM.

P. D. STRACEY, I.F.S.

15th October, 1946.

7.—RECORD SEROW.

(With a photo)

Major G. T. Allen, M.C., Assistant Political Officer, Lohit Valley Sadiya, has sent us a Serow, which he states he discovered in a hunter's house in the Mishmi Hills in North Assam which is very likely the record.



RECORD SEROW HEAD

The measurements are—right horn— $12\frac{1}{4}"$.
left horn— $13\frac{1}{8}"$.